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**STATE CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT  
SCUSSET BEACH STATE RESERVATION IN SANDWICH**

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard, The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and State Representatives Jeffrey D. Perry and Susan W. Gifford, celebrate the completion of work on Phase 1 of the Scusset Beach State Reservation Facility Renovation Project today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the reservation in Sandwich.

“This project is an example of the state’s commitment to improving park infrastructure, enhancing the recreation experience for visitors, and providing improved customer service in an effort to achieve a world class park system in Massachusetts,” said EOEA Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard.

“Last year over half a million visitors, came to visit Scusset Beach State Reservation to camp, swim, fish, and bike around the park or to enjoy a stroll along the ocean beach or the Cape Cod Canal,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “As we head into high season on Cape Cod, we are proud to be a part of improving these state parks facilities and helping to make Scusset Beach an even more attractive destination for residents and tourists, bringing more people to the Cape to enjoy an even better recreation experience than ever before.”

Phase 1, costing approximately \$700,000, included the renovation of the Fish Pier Building into administrative offices, interpretive space, meeting rooms, and public bathrooms. An all-new membrane roof was installed, along with new mechanical and electrical systems, windows, floors, lighting and partitions. The building will function as the new headquarters for the popular camping and day-use facility.

Scusset Beach is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has been leased to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1954 and is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a private consultant to develop a Comprehensive Plan for renovation of Scusset Beach State Reservation’s facilities.

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## **Scusset Beach Renovations – Page 2 of 2**

“This building is a great facility for meeting the park’s management needs and those of the public,” said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal Park Manager William Norman.

One of the two sections of the renovated Fish Pier Building was previously used as a concession building with some office space and public toilets. The other area was a garage and storage space, however the entire building had fallen into disrepair and hadn’t been used for a number of years. The new facilities are enlarged, improved and state-of the art with radiant heat flooring, large expanses of glass to let heat into the building and skylights that let in light and heat.

State officials cited this renovation project as a model of the Romney Administration’s “Fix It First” initiative, which targets state funding for repairing and restoring existing state-owned infrastructure and historic properties to breathe new life into them and address deferred maintenance need, before buying new properties.

“For \$700,000, we have provided a new headquarters building with many new park visitor amenities for a fraction of the money it would have cost to build a brand new facility. This represents a wise use of taxpayer dollars,” said Secretary Pritchard.

The long-term future phases of the Comprehensive Plan for renovation of Scusset Beach State Reservation facilities include additional landscaping and outdoor recreation improvements, work to improve circulation around the three key area of the state reservation, some ecological restoration that would include dune restoration and habitat preservation, and eventually reconfiguration and some expansion of the popular campground facilities.

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